

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed October 4, 2004, the Examiner noted that claims 16, 29 and 40 were pending and rejected all claims. Claims 16, 29 and 40 have been amended, and, thus, in view of the forgoing claims 16, 29 and 40 remain pending for reconsideration which is requested. No new matter has been added. The Examiner's rejections are traversed below.

On January 25, 2005 a personal Interview was conducted with the Examiner and the issues discussed below were discussed.

The claims have been amended pursuant to a recommendation made by the Examiner in the Interview.

Page 3 of the Office Action rejects all claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over Bessho and Abe. Page 4 of the Office Action rejects all claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over Wang and Abe.

The Examiner acknowledges that both Bessho and Wang do not provide for deleting lines based on a link relationship. The Examiner looks to Abe.

As discussed with the Examiner in the interview, Abe is directed to a system that detects lines, blocks and tables and deletes them (see Abe figure 1C, col. 13, lines 54-63, col. 2, lines 61-64, col. 3, lines 1-5, col. 4, lines 65 - col. 5, line 2 & col. 9, line 67 - col. 10, line 3). That is, Abe erases all lines.

In contrast, as discussed with the Examiner the present invention "leaves" lines and in particular, leaves ("leaving") a horizontal line pattern "and" a vertical line pattern when they touch ("touches" - see claims 16, 29 and 40).

There is no discussion or suggestion in the prior art concerning this feature. As a result, it is submitted that the invention of the independent claims distinguishes over the prior art and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

As the amendments to the claims were made pursuant to the Examiner's recommendation, no new issues are raised and entry and consideration are requested.

It is submitted that the claims are not taught, disclosed or suggested by the prior art. The claims are therefore in a condition suitable for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is requested.

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If any further fees, other than and except for the issue fee, are necessary with respect to this paper, the U.S.P.T.O. is requested to obtain the same from deposit account number 19-3935.


Respectfully submitted,

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Date:

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